

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,697,578 to Watanabe et al. (“Watanabe”).

Claim 5 is objected to.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 14.

Applicant has canceled claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicant has amended claims 1, 13 and 14 to particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant’s invention.

Claim 1 recites a memory chip to be attached to a unit, including an electronic device, a cover, and a securing section that substantially disables the cover from being detached from the unit from an outside of said unit. The securing section has an elastic claw that is engaged with the unit to perform securement.

Claim 13 recites a process cartridge, including a process cartridge main unit, and a memory chip attached to the process cartridge main unit. The memory chip includes an electronic device, a cover, and a securing section that substantially disables the cover from the

process cartridge main unit to be detached from an outside of the process cartridge. The securing section has an elastic claw that is engaged with the process cartridge main unit to perform securement.

Claim 14 recites an image forming apparatus, including an image forming apparatus main unit, and a process cartridge which is detachably attached to the image forming apparatus main unit. The process cartridge includes a memory chip having an electronic device, a cover, and a securing section which substantially disables the cover to be detached from the process cartridge from an outside of the process cartridge. The securing section has an elastic claw that is engaged with the process cartridge to perform securement.

Thus the invention provides, for example, a memory chip 42 that can be easily secured to a housing 48 from the outside, but that is difficult to detach from the outside. The material and strength of elastic claws 452 may be adjusted so that, when the secured memory chip 42 is pulled from the outside, the elastic claws are broken. Therefore, the invention prevents the memory chip from being erroneously detached to disable the use of the process cartridge 4. Also, the invention prevents replacement of the nonvolatile memory due to detachment from the outside, so that the memory chip can store correct information characteristics of the process cartridge 4, and the image quality of an image forming apparatus 1 can be stabilized. Moreover, the memory chip 42 can be detached from the inside of the housing without breaking the elastic claws 452. Support for these features is provided at, for example, page 15, ll. 20-24; page 16, line 18 - page 17, line 7; page 17, ll. 12-21; page 18, ll. 3-17; and Fig. 10, of Applicant's specification.

In contrast, as described at col. 15, ll. 17-25, and illustrated in Fig. 12 of Watanabe, unit 44 includes a substrate unit 44b, and a frame member 44a as an outer casing member covering

the substrate unit 44b. The substrate unit 44b includes a storing element 44b1, an antenna 44b2, and a substrate 44b3 for carrying the storing element 44b1 and the communication antenna 44b2. The frame member 44a includes an upper frame 44a1 and a lower frame 44a2. The upper frame 44a1 and the lower frame 44a2 are provided with projected portions 44a11, 44a21 at the circumference. The projected portions 44a11, 44a21 are fixed together by an adhesive material, welding, ultrasonic welding or the like, after the unit 44b is inserted. Therefore, as acknowledged in the Office Action at paragraph 3, an attempt to separate projected portions 44a11, 44a21 would break one or both projected portions 44a11, 44a21. Thus, Applicant submits that projected portions 44a11, 44a21 cannot be elastic claws because elastic claws allow attachment from the outside of a unit, prevent detachment from the outside of the unit, and allow detachment from the inside of the unit without breaking the elastic claws. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Watanabe does not teach or suggest at least the features of a securing section having an elastic claw that performs securement, as recited in claims 1, 13 and 14.

Claims 2-3 and 5-12 depend from claim 1, and recite the same combination of allowable features recited in claim 1, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), of claims 1-3 and 5-14, be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

Regarding the objection to claim 5, Applicant has changed the dependency of claim 5, thus correcting the minor informality described at paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Applicant requests that the objection to claim 5 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

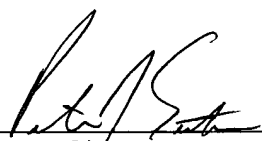
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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